

FRS NEWSLETTER



FRS NEWSCORNER *** FRS NEWSCORNER

FRS-HOLLAND ACTIVITIES

September 27th FRS-Holland took to the air between 08:00-11:00 UTC on 6242. A good signal was heard in large areas of Western Europe. The only disappointing thing was the poor reception in the UK which is a bit strange. Anyway, we received a nice amount of letters for that broadcast. Sunday October 18th would be the day FRS-H was

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS:

This is your FINAL Newsletter based on your current subscription which only covered the issues 118-120. Those who paid DM 2.50/E 1.00 extra, will soon receive the FRS Info Booklet. In the past it often happened that people forgot to renew. That means a lot of extra work for US. In order to avoid this annoying situation we KINDLY but URGENTLY ask you to renew NOW. It's simple. Just send DM 10.00/E 4.00 V f 10,-. **DO IT NOW** and you secure this Newsletter until the end of 1999 (issue 121-124).

going to celebrate its 18th birthday. Due to circumstances the main programming had to be postponed till the following Sunday. Two hours of FRS celebrations went out over the SWRS outlets on 6280, 7560 and 11470 kHz (US). In particular the 26 mhz was doing very well in Western Europe. Our full 4 hours programming went out on the 25th between 08:00-13:00 UTC on 6240 kHz. Conditions that day were very good and apart from the first hour (eding) we had strong signals in several countries. The programme output consisted of music from the FRS era 1980-1988, blocks of programme extracts, information etc. Everythin went up till 12:15 UTC when technical problems forced us to close down. At that moment some 10 minutes were left. We received some 50 letters from a total of 9 countries including Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Scotland, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany & France. Most encouraging were the great number of positive comments about our programme output. That's what it is all about. Sunday Dec. 13th FRS tested a new freq on 6216. Tests started at 11:15 UTC following the close down of station EME. Pulling out a regular 24/1 hour show that morning. As far as we can see, the signal quality was satisfactory knowing it was only 50W we were putting out. Looking back at 1998 we may say this was quite an active year for FRS-Holland with a total of 7 regular test/birthdays/broadcasts.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES ON SWRS

The Dec. 13th test was in preparation for the XMas Party taking place next Sunday 09:00-13:00 UTC on a freq with in the 48 m. In that programme a 60 min. FRS Goes DX/Mas, great music (covering 4 decades) and many of the letters we received for our Oct. 25th broadcast. FRS will be heard mainly in German & English with Mark Jones, Peter Verbruggen and Joop ter Zee. A well known former FRS presenter will return to the station around Easter 1999. Over the XMas period FRS-H will also take part in the Second Contest Europe's "Memorial Michel Raegnaux" (Dec. 18th-Jan. 6th). During this period FRS will be heard (among a great number of other stations) on one of these freqs: 3905, 7580, 11470 or 21450 kHz (all in US). In the New Year the test FRS activities will be on January 24th (09:00-12:00 UTC) on a freq close to 6240 kHz.

NEWFRS-HOLLAND STATION LOGO

One of the highlights in October was the introduction of our brandnew station logo. If you visit our website you will find out how it looks like. QSLs and stickers have been printed in full colour and each of you who dropped us a line in October, will receive (as received) the new stuff.

NEWFRS LOGES

Right at this moment a set of brand new English & German jingles are being produced. Peter V. wrote a complete set of lyrics which will be recorded on MiniDisc DAT in Austria and the USA. Joop ter Zee will be handling the mixing of the lines. FRS has a complete library of music beds and production elements to be used for any production work. In 1999 you will be able to hear the new FRS jingles set.

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

CONDITIONS/GENERAL

In this final 1998 edition we cover the period mid September - mid December. In the past months conditions on 48 & 41 metres have gradually improved. In particular October saw a number of Sundays being ruled by (very) favourable propagation. As a result a high number of stations were active and mostly heard in good quality. One example is Sun October 25th when no less than 30 different stations were to be heard on 48 & 41 metres. Also Nov. 1st a high number of stations was mentioned. Sun Nov 15th several Dutch powerhouses overran the SW 48 mhz. Spaceman, TAR, Tonie, Tommalk, RECH & VOTN, the Farmers and Blue Star. Makes a total of at least 4 KW! The annual SWRS SW Station Pop Poll resulted in Radio Cochiqua on #1, Submissions Sounds being 2nd, Radio Kosha International 3rd, FRS4H fourth and Radio Prana! Radio Tommalk shared the 5th position. With the upcoming X-Mas Season SW Free Radio activity will be at peak. We have tried to include as much info regarding upcoming times as possible. On some Sundays a free radio checkin for AOL users will be open in the evening UTC. Further info from <shiro@shiro.com>.

RADIO AL. INT. is to be heard almost every Sun on 6270 kHz. Broadcasts start early and usually end well before 10:00 UTC. Since October RA1 has a new transmitter with an output of no less than 550W. Future tests are planned on 6250, 6565, 11450 and also in the area of 15025 kHz. Address: www.radiobanda.com. NewEmail is saint@rendo.demon.nl > . There's a website under construction. < www.radiodisco.com > -sister.

Newcomer RADIO BANDONICA from the Eastern part of the Netherlands continues with regular early Sun morning broadcasts on 6275 kHz. Oct. 18th saw the station on this freq as early as 03:35 UTC. Power was approx 48W, in the mean time a new 100W tx was in use. The first time with the new freq took place on Dec. 6th when a strong signal was radiated on 6275. Add is same as Radio AL. INT, VOTN & RECH. P.O. Box 653, 7500 AR Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

Sun Oct. 18th **RADIO BENELUX** (1) tested on 7480. Until a few years ago, 7480 was the station's bed channel but BN1 moved to 48 & 51 metres because of poor propagation on 41 metres. It looks like the 41 m is open for medium and long distances. Any keen SW OP will find enough suitable freqs for broadcast purposes within the 7300-7500 freq range. Since October BN1 has frequently been noted on 7480 with mostly good results.

The new address of **RADIO BERMUDADREIECK** is P.O. Box 1136, D-03201 Messersburg Germany. Email: <hrv100@pvtw.rwanda.de>

RADIO BLACKBIRD (10) returned on SW Sun Nov 22nd. The station was heard on 6267 with a 100W tx. Station CP Dave Norris made a phone in receiving phone calls from Scotland and Germany. Signal quality was good.

Dutch **RADIO BLACK POWER** was heard on 6180 kHz Sun Sept. 27th. Signal strength on the continent was very good. That same morning the station was also logged on 6280. Inches like a number of Dutch 48 mhz broadcasters are making use of the chances offered on Sunday mornings in the 6180-6200 kHz range. During the absence of powerful local own stations like the BBC, the part of the 48 mhz is ideal for use by SW Free Radio broadcasters. Stations like Blue Star, Union Radio, Alternative Radio already used freqs below 6200. For SW Free Radio DMers it's a good idea to also check this part of the dial.

Dutch powerhouse **RADIO BLUESTAR** now has its very own website < www.bluestarradio.nl >. NewEmail < bluestar@bluestar.nl >. Radio Blue Star is usually to be found on 48- and 70-metres with mostly strong signals. Sat October 17th a special test was carried out on 6165 following an earlier test on the 1st Sept. 20th. During the later occasion a new 6165 rig was put into service. Oct. 17th Blue Star was also heard on 6235 and 6310. Ever since Blue Star has been heard regularly on 6160. Sun Oct. 18th Radio Blue Star tested on 6220 using only 50W of power. Conditions were good that day and a strong signal was provided. Sun Nov. 8th a 30W 6210 test was conducted. A week later a test on 7450 (far signal) took place. On the 22nd of Nov. 6235 & 6240 kHz (freqs) were being used. Dec. 13th saw more Blue Star tests on 41 metres on 7480 and 7500 kHz. The later freq gave a much better signal. Blue Star is aiming at a 24-hour broadcast with a 15 KW tx. Add: Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle (also being used by Testradio Joop Zonder & Davyton).

Sun October 4th Belgian **RADIO BRIGITTE** was heard on 6510 and 6571. So now and then Brigitte can be heard on 48 metres but quite often rather exotic out-band freqs outside the common 48 mbs are being used. Sun Oct. 11th 6259 & 6244 were in use and Nov. 8th 6300 & 6258 (test). Address is P.O.Box 10, 7594 ZG Rouwem in the Netherlands.

Saturday September 26th **BRITAIN'S BETTER MUSIC STATION** was heard on 5944 kHz till approx. 22:00 UTC. A German Service was aired and genuine German

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schagers were played. BBMS is making use of Crane Radio facilities. According to our latest info BBMS is on air Saturday nights on 5835 starting at 2130 UTC. Most Sunday mornings 6198 is in use except the times Radio Pandies or European Music Radio are using 6200. Sign on is at 0730 UTC. Sunday afternoons from 1230 UTC onwards 7400 is in use, according to BBMS an ideal moment to use 41 metres as propagation is at its peak during the earlier part of the afternoon. Sat evening Oct 17th BBMS was indeed to be heard on 5835 with a nice signal. Address is same as Crane Radio.

■ **RADIO CITY FM** (10) was heard with a lengthy broadcast (good signal) on 6245 Sun Dec 13th. The station is certainly an asset in the Free Radio world with a good programming consisting of music and information. Address is: City RMs website: <<http://www.cityfm.de>> Email: <cavm@t-online.de> Sun November 30th at 1145 UTC City FM was sacked by German authorities. A small 4W FM tx used for relay purposes was confiscated plus of audio equipment. The confiscated tx was relaying the City FM programming 24 hours a day on the new frequency 87.8 FM.

■ Sat evening Dec 5th **RADIO CLOUD** returned on SW 3910 following a long absence. The station was also heard on 6255 Sun December 13th. Pic contained a review of Free Radio in 1998. Comint reports must cover a 15 minute period along with sufficient return postage (1 IRC, 1 US dollar or 2x10 DM stamps). Address is Box 540101 in D-47151 Duisburg in Germany.

■ **South American Radio COCHIGUAZ** was the winner of the SRS Station Pop Poll 1998. Congratulations! Oct 24th saw the station with excellent signals on 6230 via Tornavik & Nov 8th on 6235 via IRIJ, Brazil.

■ **RADIO DAYTONA** was a rare catch on Sun Sept 27th. The station was heard on board on 6250 and later on 6235 kHz. In the early 90s there was a Dutch SW station called East Dayton but we are not sure whether there is any connection between this one and the 80s version. In the mean time the station is being heard quite regularly on 48 metres, for instance Sun Nov 8th Daytona was on 6235 and on the 22nd on 6280. Address: Radio Blue Star.

■ **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND AND VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** carried out a mutual high power test (300W) on 7400 kHz on Sun Nov 15th. At around 1030 UTC the tx went silent because the antenna was damaged. The funny thing is the CPs themselves were not aware of the tx being off the air. A listeners telephone call from Bremen (Dortmund) informed them that they were off the air. After checking the equipment it was discovered that the balun (center part of the aerial) was burning. Nov 29th saw a very brief but more successful test in the afternoon. Signal-quality was excellent. Nov 1st RECH was heard on 6235 with a good signal. Sun Nov 22nd RECH tested a new 100W tx on 6270 and results were satisfactory. They also have new Email addresses: <voh@t-online.de> and <eastcoastholland@t-online.de>. Since a few weeks they have now also a homepage featuring it's mighty tx capable of putting out 1.5 kW (!). <<http://www.radio-dok.com/~eastcoast/>>.

■ **RADIO EUROMAST** is a new Dutch station being first heard on 6243 & 6280 Sun Nov 15th. Also at this date the station was logged on a number of 48 mb freqs. No address known.

■ **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** was heard on 6220 kHz on Sun Oct 4th. It seems the station is not very lucky with its recent broadcasts. The 6220 signal suffered from a high noise level, the mod didn't seem loud enough to overcome the problem. For the first time since more than 15 years a Swedish Service was part of the programme output along with shows English, German and French. Looking at the stations professional programming the station deserves far more than the current poor support from the European SW Free Radio audience. Stations like EMR must be cherished as only few stations are able to provide the listeners with such wide variety of int. programming. Sun October 18th saw a brief EMR test consisting of int. station IDs on 6220 with on the continent excellent signal. Also in Scandinavia the signal was heard in good quality. Further tests with the stations 120W (unmodulated carrier power) were noted Sun November 29th (6235) & December 6th (6230). Also these tests were successful with fine signals in both UK and continent. Sun Nov 1st EMR was on 6300 (relay) but heavy interference came from Blue Star on 6235. Sunday December 13th European Music Radio put out a full programming on 6210. Pic commented at 0830 UTC and lasted till 1115 UTC. Signal strength and modulation were very good making up a bit for the unsuccessful tests earlier this year. It's to be hoped that the broadcast which was heard loud and clear at over Western Europe will produce the amount of listeners the station certainly deserves. Just for your information EMR has a very goodlooking colourful QSL and an informative info sheet giving you all info regarding the technical and programming side of the operation. Address is: P.O.Box 2727, 5618 ZG Heteren in the Netherlands. Chris Wilson of Radio GeronimoRadio 48 will be regularly testing with EMR programs on 31 mb in the 9600-9400 kHz region. Many on 6300 kHz. The tests starts around 1600 UTC.

■ **THE FANTASTY RADIO NETWORK** tested on 6245 (and later on 6250) with a nice signal on Sun Dec 8th. The Netra Transceiver CRIC 9.8 has a power of only 10W A week later a second test took to the air on 6235 & 6283. Pic were in German & English is planned to start official programming during the X-Mas days. Reports can be sent to SRS-Germany in Münsterburg.

■ **THE FARMERS FROM HOLLAND** are to be heard on 6234 since September. Why the move from 6300 to 6234? We contacted one of the people behind the Farmers who kindly explained to us that the Farmers were aware of causing interference to "Reflections Europe" on 6235 in the late Sun afternoon and evening. A second reason for shifting

frequency is that 6234 is clearer in the eyes of the Farmers. Address is Box 108 in 7200 AC Dalfsen. Website: <<http://www.farmers>>

■ The current schedule of **RADIO 510** reads as follows on Fridays 2000-2100 on 3980U, on Saturdays 0730-0930 on 7120U, 1900-2000 on 3985U and 2000-2100 on 3980U. Address is P.O.Box 510, CH-4101 Basel in Switzerland. Email: <steve@radio510.org>

■ **RADIO PLUX**, a relatively new Dutch station, was heard during numerous occasions, for example Wednesday September 23rd on 3925 and Sun Oct 11th on 6255. Plux used to be an FM pirate but was forced to cease activities by the end of 1997. The OP moved to a new house and problems arose when he submitted an application for an antenna in his back garden. As a result the OP switched to SW after he read an article about pirates in the 75 mts. Until that moment he didn't know about SW Free Radio stations broadcasting on 48 and 76 metres. And so it started. He tested and started experiments after building his own 100W tx. The tx is capable of broadcasting on both 76 and 48 metres. Soon a selfconstructed 300W Control tx will become operational. According to the station OP there's not enough space to erect a proper mast. But with some creativity this problem seems to be solved. Sat Oct 3rd at 1630 UTC an antenna test was carried out on 3931 kHz. Sat Oct 17th Plux was testing on 6280 announcing a phone-number. The following day 6285 was in use. During several other occasions the station was heard on 76 & 48 metres. Address is P.O.Box 204, 4190 CE Geldermalsen

■ **RADIO FREE LONDON**, the station celebrating its 30th birthday mid August, was heard during several weekends on 5803. November 1st RFL was broadcasting on 6305 kHz. That day a Halloween special was put out on 3 freqs including the aforementioned 6305, 5803 & 3945. Dec 6th RFL was again noted on 6305 but this time not on 5803. Most likely the station will be very active over the X-Mas period, remember last year when the station was putting out 24 hour day/9 days in a row from the 20th to 29th December. Address is 1018 Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 8UP, England. Email: <rsfl@rsfl.co.uk> Website: <<http://www.rsfl.co.uk/100years.htm>>. In the mean time RFL has been heard a number of times on 6305 kHz.

■ **RADIO FUSION INTERNATIONAL**, from Sweden will hit the airwaves on Christmas Day and possibly also Boxing Day at 0700 or 0800 UTC. Frequency hasn't been decided yet but will be within 48 metres. 5240 kHz is a possibility. Power will be approx 180W. In the past RFI suffered from mod problems but this seems to be sorted out now. Address is P.O.Box 480, 203 20 Malmö, Sweden.

■ **RADIO GUNSMOKE** (5) from the Netherlands was noted on 3910 Sat October 3rd. Not less than 300W were in use resulting in a more than excellent signal. As a result of the increasing number of bad quality (or even fake) reports Gunsmoke has started mentioning a special code within its shows. This code must be included in the reports. Sun Nov 29th Gunsmoke Risted on 6285, mod quality left much to be desired. In 1999 the station will return under its old name Radio Borderbuzzer.

■ **RADIO INTERCITY** uses a new address: ob PRI, P.O. Box 520112, D-44207 Düsseldorf, Germany.

■ **INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO** is from now on concentrating on 51 metres thus ceasing activities to 76 mts. Maximum power of the current outlet is 200 Watts in SSB. If MUR's future shows will be aired during evening hours on 5615 in US8 Pcs are not aired on any special day just check 5615 around 1900 UTC. At present time the station cannot be reached via Email, the alternative is sending reports by Fax 0049-2166-5259 or via telephone direct into the studio 0049-717-752-27-27. Address is P.O.Box 1951, 79554 West am Ried, Germany. Sat Oct 31st EMR celebrated its 5th birthday with shows on 3600 and 7415 kHz. Congratulations!

■ **RADIO IRIS INT.** from the Netherlands was heard on 6308 Sun Nov 22nd and 26th. Its used to be a famous Dutch pirate in the late 70s broadcasting on FM, MW & SW. We do not know whether this is the old Radio 1st from Amsterdam. Email add: <radioiris@compuserve.com>

■ **IRISH INDEPENDENT RADIO** is a new name in SW Free Radio land. The station was played via JRI on 6234 Sun Oct 18th. Suprisingly a Dutch address is in use P.O.Box 15658, 1001 AB Amsterdam!

■ **RADIO JOYSTICK** (1) has a new email add which is rdc@pzh@mail.com > Dec 13th Joystick was heard on 6203, possibly via Radio Pandies.

■ **RADIO KORAK INT.** was to be heard with a broadband transmitter on Sat night October 10th. The usual 3920 kHz was in use and as always signal quality was excellent. What exactly the power remains a secret. It is very powerful! In October & November RNI was noted several times on Sat evenings. Dec 5th saw the station for a while on 3979. Address is P.O.Box 134, 3780 BC Voorthuizen in the Netherlands.

■ **MAGIC SW** which was heard on 6281 Sun Dec 11th is sharing the P.O.Box 1104, NL-8001 EC Zwolle from Blue Star.

■ **MAGIC WAVE RADIO** (10) tested on 6245 Sun Oct 23th. A fair signal was noted. MWR seems to be a Scandinavian project (?)

■ **German RADIO MARABU** had a busy weekend Sat Nov 14th when txs were observed on 6210, 6281 and 7120 (IRRS). A week later Marabu was on 6210 kHz with nice signalstrength. The station continues to provide a less musical alternative to the SW listener. Address is P.O.Box 116, D-49187 Bielefeld, Email: <radomarabu@t-online.de>. Website: <<http://www.media00/radomarabu/>>.



■ **RADIO MAXWELL** was heard in the quarry on 7446 Sun Oct. 25th. Only 25 watts were announced, for instance in Finland signal strength was very good. Sun Nov. 8th saw Mail on 7413 kHz. Add is 64 Brighton Rd, Leicester LE5 0HA, UK.

■ **MOZART RADIO** is a new station hoping to make a tribute show *Boeing Day* Dec 26th 1998. Operator Jonny Seppl will emphasize on playing music from composers from a country that Austria had occupied during its Empires time Bohemia and Moravia. If listeners react in a positive way, they plan to have additional shows. Address is c/o FRI. Endsee 2 1 US dollars. 2 IRCS 2x 1,10 DM stamps for QSL-card and information.

■ **RADIO NEWWORLD**, the joint venture of Tonewalk and Tonair was heard on 6270 Sun Dec. 13th but due to technical problems the station was forced to leave the airwaves. Signal was very good. Add is Box 47 in 7010 AA, Goudaer, the Netherlands.

■ **Sun October 11th RADIO NORDSEE INT.** (10) from Germany returned on 48 meters following a few months absence. The station was unable to use 6210 but instead used 6270 because German colleague Radio Mercur was on 6210 all weekend. The professional Nordsee pros were live and listeners were offered the opportunity to call. Signal strength was the one, so was the modulation. RNH has planned a number of marathon broadcasts over the X-Mas Holiday Season. X-Mas & Boeing Day. Day will see the station on air from 1000-1800 hours on 6210 and in addition there will be a special New Years Eve broadcast in the evening hours on 75 & 48 meters. RNH will also be heard on PM 88.9 (200 Watt) and 101.4 MHz (1 Watt) during X-Mas Eve and January 1st. Dec 6th saw "another" Nordsee on 6211 giving out the POBox 2209,77612 Ollendorf Germany address.

■ **OZONE RADIO** seems to be Britain's most active station at present time. The station is active on 78, 51, 41 and 48 meters. It's a pity that the station not yet uses feed channels. Witness the great deal of freqs being used over the past few months. September 20th at just over 1100 UTC the station was, for a change observed on 7401. Broadcasts are being aired in cooperation with colleague station BBSW. Currently the following schedule (roughly) is valid on Sun at 0800 UTC on 6198, at 1600 UTC on 5794. The hours to commence 41 mb times at the moment the freqs are converted. Possible future freqs are 7310, 7366, 7400, 7420, 7460, 7580 or 7580 kHz. Crane is looking for 60 mb X-Mas as well, freqs wanted are 4810, 4930, 4935, 4940, 4950, 4960 & 4970 kHz. Ozone hopes to open up this band in the near future. Latest news, Crane Radio started tests on 7190 kHz (9-10 UTC) and 7170 kHz (10-11 UTC). Address is 550 Chester Rd, London N19 5DF in the UK. Email: <bbm@ozone.com>.

■ **RADIO PANDORA** (10) was putting out ps on 6200 Sun Oct. 18th making use of the fact the Farmers have this QRG. Pandoras signals usually far on the continent. Mod could be a bit louder. Nov. 1st 25W Pandoras was on 6207 and 6302.

■ In the FRS Newsletter #49 and in the Sept. 27th edition of FRS Goes DX we mentioned the wrong address of German station **RADIO PERFEKT**. We'd like to apologize and here belows the one and only correct one: POBox 1732, D-45757 Gelsen. In addition (1) may also be used! Thanks to Werner Schaeumann.

■ **PROJECT ONE** (1) is a collaboration between Dutch and German SW operators. It started in 1997 and activities are taking place every 3rd month. Over the first October weekend the station was active on several 75 & 48 mb freqs including 3200, 3394, 6210/545, 6250, 6270 & 6281. Stations such as Flux, Bee Star, Orchid, Case, Star Club Radio, Freestyle, Free Willy, D: Tim, RTN, Dland and Perfect are involved with Projec One.

■ **Q103** was active on Saturday Oct 17th. At 1730 UTC a fair signal was noted on 6567 LSB, 10303.3 USBY 3886 kHz (LSB) were also announced with nothing was audible on these freqs. The broadcast was announced for the 10th. Sun Dec 13th saw Q103 on 10304 kHz but much of the signal was spot by heavy QRM. Add (10) Email: <q103@hotmail.com>.

■ A final rare catch on Sun Sept. 27th was a station calling itself **SENDER DM**. As early as 0540 UTC that Sun morning a male voice did a speech in German covering the German political scene regarding violation and brutalization in the society and industrial disease the country, either a mouthful. The broadcast was noted on 6570 kHz. According to some sources it sounded like the ex-GDR underground stations of the 1950 to 1970s.

■ **SWING WAVE RADIO** (1) is the latest new station to be heard via the weekend relay service of the IRWS in Italy. Sunday Oct. 3rd the station was heard on 3985 and 3800 kHz. And yes, this is yet another part venture, the radio Wave Wonderful and RMGP are involved. All the DJs of both stations were in the studio.

■ **SHORT WAVE ROCK** popped up on SW being noted on 6252 Sun Nov. 13th. The following Email add was announced: <rockradio@qsl.net>. Last known add is 9 Andrew Close Hatchett, Ilford, Essex IG6 2QG in the UK.

■ **THE SHORT WAVE RELAY SERVICE** tested on 21450 kHz USBI October 10th. Usual freqs are 11470, 6200 & 7580. Main freq however is 11470. Since Sat Nov. 7th regular 76 mb times have been started on 3005 kHz. Over the X-Mas/Holiday Season the SWRS will radio several SW free radio station taking part in the Second Contest Europe "Memorial Michel Rauchgau" taking place between Dec 18th and January 6th 1999. In this period listeners must catch as many free radio stations as possible. Nice press to be won and the full details are available on the SWRS website. In addition you can order the complete info-sheets from FRS-Net via the Hellen mailing. The SWRS announced a great week of continuous programs on 11470 kHz. User Email <SWRS@raumund.de>. Website: <<http://www.raumund.de>>.

■ **SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS** was noted on 6302 & 6308 Sun Nov. 15th. Signals on the continent were fair. The station features a lot of speech between the records. That makes the station quite different on SW. A phone in show was noted on 6257 Nov. 23rd. Add is 5 Dolphin Court, Poole BH13 6H-B in the UK.

■ **RADIO DR. TIM** was heard on 6297 and 6302 kHz Sun Oct. 11th. As the part of the day is left by the Farmers, other stations are making full use of the opportunity of using freqs like 6265 & 6300 open Nov. 15th saw Dr. Tim on 6247 & 6250. Dr. Tim is also active on 76 meters during Sat nights. Address is (1).

■ **RADIO TITANIC INT** (1) was heard with a Halloween special Sun Nov. 1st on 7480 kHz. For an updated version of the station's rich history, take a look at <www.ksu.schaffhausen.ch>. Email: <titanic@ars.page>.

■ **RADIO TONAIR** tested on 6260 on Sun Oct. 18th. Signal strength was good but that was not the case with the mod quality sounding rather distorted. Oct. 25th Tonair was heard on 6281 and 7488. The latter is rather a strange freq knowing that Tonair is mostly active on 48 meters. Sun Nov. 28th saw Tonair on 6165. Add is P.O.Box 21 in 7010 AA, Goudaer in the Netherlands.

■ **RADIO TORNEMARK** was heard on 6230 with very strong signals Oct. 25th & Nov. 15th. On the 15th the station was also briefly monitored on 6230. Address is P.O.Box 94 in 7028 ZH Zürich.

■ **TRANCE SW** is a new Dutch station that first tested in the weekend of Nov. 14th/15th. The 14th on 6244 and the following day on 6263. Regularly weekly shows are planned Fridays. Broadcasts emanate from the Zuider Zee area and a Rhede & Schwaz 50W tx is being used. A test was heard on Sun Dec. 13th, signal on 6225 was nice. Website: <<http://www.coverline.com/trance>> and Email: <trance@coverline.com>.

■ **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** has been noted various times on 15 & 48 meters. Sun 08.9.98 was used and on the 15th & 22nd 6286. On the 15th mod quality was poor but the following week it had dramatically improved. Transatlantic Radio is planning a New Years Eve Party on 3984 and 5795 kHz commencing at 2100 U.

■ **Tuesday October 6th** saw Dutch **UNION RADIO** testing on 6230 producing a strong signal. One day earlier at 20:00 UTC homeop music was aired on 6240 kHz. Sun October 11th the station was for more than 4 hours on 6240 kHz providing a more than excellent signal in Central and Western Europe. In particular the modulation quality was very bad and clear, something which still is a problem for (too) many SW free radio stations. The station OP received many telephone calls during the live fm broadcast. During the broadcast a different type of aester was tested. Sun Nov. 8th & 22nd saw very good 3+ hour phone in shows on 6240 with excellent signals. Add is P.O.Box 689 in 7500 AR Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

■ **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** was noted on 7494 kHz 811 miles Sun Oct. 11th. The station is now also on the Internet. Email address is <vohn@femail.com>. Address is P.O.Box 683, 7500 AR Hoogeveen. Don't confuse it with P.O.Box 689, that is the one used by Union Radio!

■ **RADIO SWANS INT** was celebrating 15 years of SW broadcasts on Sun Nov. 15th 1998. Congratulations! Live ps went out on 11401 and 7484. In addition RVI was heard on 7590 via the IRWS to Italy. Sun Nov. 23rd RVI produced a very good signal on 11401 and brandnew jingles were introduced produced by RSV-Joop ter Zee. For details check their webpage: <www.magnetix-euweveleid.htm>.

■ Scotland's premier SW Free Radio station **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** was heard during several occasions on 1446 kHz. It seems this is the stations new bed frequency. In the past 4 weeks WMR didn't miss a Sunday on 7485 kHz. Signal strength on the content is mostly fastgood. Email <WMR@jaguar.net>.

■ **WIRKSWAN RADIO INT** from the UK now has new Internet address <www.international@purpletreasure.co.uk> and <www.europe@purpletreasure.co.uk>. The station is regularly heard on 12255 kHz.

■ Many SW DXers will remember the (famous) **X-MAS RADIO** from the Netherlands. The last time X-Mas Radio was active must be several years ago. X-Mas is a station only broadcasting during the X-Mas period and in the past several famous Dutch psos hosted guest shows on the station owned by Hetbe de Fm. 1998 will see X-Mas return to the SW bands. Psos are planned X-Mas Day and Boeing Day on 48 meters. Address could be P.O.Box 343, 6000 AH Zwolle in the Netherlands.

OFFSHORE RADIO NAMES

Annual Dutch Radio Day

This traditional and popular day will be taking place in Haarlem Sat March 20th. Freewave Media Magazine and Stichting Media Communicate join forces and will organize this event which has gained quite some popularity among free radio enthusiasts. If you'd like to attend the meeting, you can contact FRS and we will give you the exact location which is only a 10 minute walk from Haarlem railstation. Also in 1999 well-known guests will be attending the meeting and many interesting video tapes will be played. Put it in your diary Sat March 20th 1999.

Offshore CD-Rom now available

This Summer a CD-Rom entitled **Offshore MultiMedia** was published. This excellent CD-Rom contains no less than 225 websites, mostly complete, more than 2000 photos, 681 audios and 10 videos. A vital part is the *Encyclopedia of Offshore Radio* produced by Jim Parker containing much more info photos, audios and jingles. Unique is that each CD-Rom being ordered will contain the most updated info which is available. German offshore expert Martin van der Ven is taking care of frequently updating the info. We can

strongly recommend this CD-Rom. It costs DM 65 and for info contact Martin by Email <vendevan@t-online.de>.

Laser 558

December will see Laser 558 back on the radio in the Dutch Rotterdam area on FM 106.5 MHz. It concerns original programme tapes recorded aboard the *Communication* in the 1980s. These tapes were bought by a great fan Ian Moore (history, audio extracts, photos, video etc) on this website < <http://www.laser558.de> >.

Israel Broadcasting Authority to pay tribute to VOP

Monday October 20th the Israeli Broadcasting Authority put out a special programme commemorating it was 5 years ago the famous *Voice of Peace* closed down for good. The *Voice of Peace* was an offshore radio station founded by Abe Nathan broadcasting for more than 20 years from "The Peace Ship" anchored in International waters of Tel Aviv. During its broadcasting life the station became a living legend employing many well-known UK presenters. Broadcasts that day on 88 MHz commenced at 07:00 and ended at 01:00 UTC. Pcs were aired in English and Hebrew presented by former VOP pals, many coming from abroad especially for the event. Many of the programmes associated with the VOP were reused, including *Day Time*, *Twilight Time* and *The Classical Music* programme among others. The broadcast started at 7am with three hours of the British DJ Tim Shepherd. It was a very emotional day for everyone involved and the listener response was huge. The telephone never stopped ringing. All had one thing in common - they all wanted **MORE VOP days!** Anyone interested in the *Voice of Peace* or other Israeli stations might like to look at MikeBrands.com/OffshoreStations website < <http://MikeBrands.com/OffshoreStations/laser558.htm> >.

Special broadcasts to celebrate 40 years of offshore radio

Most likely many Caroline and Free Radio enthusiasts were scanning the LW, MW and SW dots last weekend vary looking for a temporary weekend offshore station. What is the story about this project? FRS Goes DX reports...

A group describing itself "an international group of friends of offshore radio" was planning a special broadcast, scheduled in the weekend of October 17th/18th. Although some sources were talking about time legally authorised by a European country, probably on a special event basis - we now know. A few weeks before the planned time would commence, the group announced in a press release the reason for being to hear. It was said that during the 1986 summer, the first commercial radio station on board a ship started broadcasting of the European coast, *Radio Mercur*. The station reached ten thousands of listeners in Copenhagen and Malmö. By using the freedom of the international waters, the monopoly of the state operated broadcasters was shattered. Finally, *Radio Mercur* had to cease operations. The same happened with all the other valley-waver stations that followed the idea of operating from the high seas. In the years to come, there were different reasons for their failure. But in some countries offshore radio led to changes in media politics. Commercial radio was introduced on shore. But strange things happened as these new local and nationwide stations did not want to share their audience with the offshore based competitors. The International group of friends of offshore radio wanted to reminisce the important part of the European media history. Non-commercial broadcasts would be emanating from a ship in the North Sea. Name of the station: **OFFSHORE 92**. The news about the interesting initiative spread through radio circles. Quite understandable knowing the press release was to be read on various popular radio-related websites, for example RadioVita, the Offshore Pages from Marin van der Venne and UK-based *Newsvale*. Reliable sources however reported that the English and Dutch authorities were fully aware of the project and positive actions could not be ruled out. We have no clue as to which North Sea spot was chosen as an anchorage for the temporary broadcasting vessel. Also the people behind the project should be in mind. Broadcasts would have been taken place on Long Wave 273, Medium Wave 1666 and Short Wave 6210 was mentioned but we believe it would be more likely a 41 mb frequency was going to be used. The reason this had to be cancelled were the weather conditions last weekend. Force 6/7 winds blow over the North Sea and that's the main reason the ship didn't leave the harbour. At the moment we cannot reveal if and when a new attempt will be made. It's a fact the time of the year is not very favourable because of the infamous gale force winds.

RADIO CAROLINE

It looks like Radio Caroline has bounced back this year. After a decade in which its broadcasts were confined mainly to RSLs, the station can be heard on a regular basis via satellite, DAB and short wave. Since October, the station is on air with weekly shows every Sunday from 10:00-18:00 UTC. These live are taking place on the Astor 1C via the EKR transponder 35, 10394 GHz-H, audio subcarriers 7.38 & 7.55 MHz and parallel in DAB, the new future standard equaling CD quality. For Peter Moore a dream has come true. Sunday Nov 1st Radio Caroline took charge. Sunday satellite/DAB broadcasts a step further this month, with the introduction of digital broadcasts. The Sunday output is normally coming from the EKR studio, but that Sunday programmes come live from the *MV Ross Revenge*, anchored off the Isle of Sheppey. It would become the first international broadcast from the radio ship's deck! The signal from Caroline was linked to EBR's studios at Maldon, where it was transmitted onwards by satellite (with DAB and FM relay) as normal DAB is only available in the London area at the moment. Radio Caroline's station manager Peter Moore said "We are delighted to be able to use new technology such as DAB, which we hope will give us

more opportunities for regular broadcasting in the future. Our airline deal with ENR, which gives us access to a large European audience as well as state-of-the-art studios in Maldon, is working extremely well. We have been inundated with calls and faxes asking our first live broadcast". Speaking about the day of ship-based broadcasting on the 15th Moore added "We want to tell our regular listeners that despite the satellites and digital relay, we haven't forgotten our roots". Caroline's broadcast line-up on Sundays includes Johnny Lewis, Steve Conway, Dave Foster and Nigel Hairs, all of them worked for the station during its offshore days. Radio Caroline has been chosen by DAB radio manufacturer Grundig as the ideal broadcaster to attend early adopters of the technology. In a deal announced earlier this month, Grundig have sponsored Radio Caroline's broadcast on DAB until the end of the year, and are also providing a top-of-the-range DABROS digital car radio for a competition on the station. A spokesman for Grundig commented "We are delighted to be working with one of the best known radio stations in the world to promote digital radio. With the recent launch of DAB receivers by a number of manufacturers, and the beginning of the commercial licensing process, the time is right to start promoting the technology now. We are sure Caroline's unique audience profile will help us reach the people who are most likely to buy and use the new and exciting DAB technology".

Peter Moore explains "The image of the *Ross Revenge* (the Radio Caroline ship) as a museum piece, silent and staffed by a caretaker crew is no longer accurate. On Sunday for example, while crew team were presenting the live programmes from the EBR studios at Maldon, another was busy recording future Marin broadcasts in Studio 2 on board the ship, while studio 1 was in use making programmes for an offshore station who had rented our facilities. Meanwhile, a technical crew were on board rigging up an antenna for an RSL station which is re-tinting the ship and studios later this year". Such is the demand for studio time on board Caroline, that the engineering team are considering rebuilding and returning to use Studio 3 (the old Overdrive/Viewpoint studio) which has not been in use since before the 1989 raid by the Dutch authorities. The live programming every Sunday's opened by Johnny Lewis who is nowadays on EKR and Radio Caroline. Johnny certainly adds something to the Caroline programming and it's good to have him back on a weekly basis. Every weekend there are guests from the past and that makes listening very entertaining. The nostalgic content is rather high. Besides great classic rock is being played. All in all it's more than worth while listening to Caroline's Sunday satellite output. In the mean time Caroline is also to be heard on Marin Network One who started up a new full time 7 day a week 24 hour a day service Monday October 15th. Already two days later, Wednesday Oct 21st Caroline was noted starting at 17:00 UTC on SW 6015 kHz. Surprisingly it was Peter Moore hosting the show obviously replacing Johnny Reece. With the new NNO Service, chances for Caroline are better than ever before to be heard on both satellite and SW. At present time Caroline can be heard on Wednesday evenings between 6 and 8pm. Mid November the FRS Newsletter received the following Caroline Newsletter which we publish in full.

JOHNNIE WALKERS TURNING POINT

Caroline's most famous and most loyal DJ Johnnie Walker was back on the *Ross Revenge* on Friday 9th of November with a BBC film crew recording footage for the series "Turning Point". Various celebrities have been asked to describe defining moments in their lives and for Walker this was August 14th 1987 when he was one of the few to stay with Radio Caroline at the moment when the station was ejected by government legislation. This decision made him unemployed in the UK for many years thereafter and at one stage even though he had been voted the most popular DJ in Britain by the general public he was reduced to driving a truck. Walker sat at the bow of the *Ross Revenge*, facing to the spot for some 15 minutes, putting the cruiser in mind of Leonardo DiCaprio on the doomed *Titanic* as he was filmed from several angles. Now Walker has a regular weekday programme on UK's Radio 2 which has recently taken both Virgin Radio and Radio 7's audience figures.

LIVE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTS

Ex-Caroline staff Johnnie Lewis, Nigel Hairs and Dave Foster assisted by Caroline Marin and Dave Asher who now produce Caroline programmes on the satellite channel also used by European Klassik Rock, were presenting the first international programmes from the *Ross Revenge* this decade. These live shows were aired Sunday November 15th/16th the end of the day Steve Conway took over programming from the EBR studio (high quality tapes of the notable moment can be obtained from FRS Sales productions).

NEW SHORTWAVE RELAY

At this time of writing this bulletin there just been confirmed that a new Caroline service will commence tests on Sunday Nov 16th, relaying the ship's output on 6940 kHz SW. This is in the 43 Meter band. The test will run from 11 am to 2:00pm but if successful will then commence each Sunday for the full eight hours that Caroline is on the EBR satellite. Listeners in Europe are invited to tune to 6940 and to forward reception reports. These can be phoned to the EBR studios on 01622 684000. Outside of the UK 44-1622-684000. Alternatively Email to < info@radio-caroline.co.uk >. Remark from FRS/NW: Caroline was noted on 6205 and 6210 on Sunday November 25th. However, we cannot confirm whether this was the *real* Caroline and we do not know what location and power was used. Up to now we haven't heard any broadcasts on 6940 kHz.

THE HISTORY OF RADIO CAROLINE



The revised history missing for so long from your favourite radio site is now on line. Written by station manager Peter Moore it is the definitive story of Radio Caroline in all her different guises and is essential reading for all Caroline fans. Contact the station via Internet: <www.radiocaroline.co.uk> or post to 426 Archway Road, London N6 4JH, England.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

MERLIN NETWORK ONE

Rens to commence a full-time World Service have become reality. Test transmissions were carried out October 13th and 14th. The proposed slot would be on Thursday October 15th but had to be canceled because all the necessary paperwork wasn't completed in time. Contracts had to be arranged and signed resulting in a 4 day delay. The station will be broadcasting around the world on satellite and shortwave. Interesting to know is that Radio Caroline and The Rock Radio Network will be part of the MNO programme schedule. The M1 service of MNO offers a wide variety of programming and is to be heard on the Asia satellite. According to Eric Weller "It is a combination of contributing stations and home grown programmes from Merlin Network One". He added that the MNO operation features state-of-the-art studios and outside broadcast facilities using the latest technology including computer technology. "I know I have often been quoted as hating computer. There will be two specific music studios and a sound area as well. All that will be connected via a brand new computer control system that will enable contributing stations from around the world to access the network at the right time. The station can be heard on Asia channel 68 which corresponds with 10647 GHz using the 7.38 & 7.55 audio subcarriers. For full broadcasting details, see the MNO website <www.mnoworld.com>. Merlin was formed on 27 March 1997 following the UK Government's decision to privatise the BBC's transmission network. Merlin was founded to carry out all technical/engineering work connected with BBC activities. With over 85 years experience Merlin delivers a range of broadcast and communications services including distribution by satellite, consultancy and project management services, facilities management and a comprehensive test laboratory.

EUROPEAN KLASSIK ROCK

ERR lost a number of presenters because of cutbacks. Night Tracks disappeared and so did Alan Andrew who presented this night show. Alan moved to London Liberty Radio. Another job who left is Bob Moyer, he's currently on Thrant Local Radio where he joined former Caroline and Invada deejay Johnny Lewis.

lMBC ONE OF 3 APPLICANTS FOR ISLE OF MAN HIGH-POWER LICENCE

The 39 year talks for a high power radio station on the Isle of Man reached historic milestones on Friday when all of Man International Broadcasting Company Ltd submitted its proposals to the Islands Communications Commission to operate the station with 500 kilowatts on 279, effectively an INRA for the UK, but in fact serving a much wider area. Among lMBC's plans are a studio and office centre for the station's 50 staff and over a dozen positive benefits for the Isle of Man. The station's name is being kept confidential for the time being, in order to not dilute the impact of its launch. It will be aimed at adults aged 25 to 50 and employ several well known radio names and celebrities as presenters on the station, which should launch next year. A former Swindon Radio England deejay will be appointed programme controller, he's very experienced and for already 33 years in the radio business. As he's still bound by contract to another station, his name will be kept secret for the time being. According to the Dutch magazine PRV, former Laser 556 female presenter Jessie Brandon will be joining the on-air staff of the new station. The station's executives have a wealth of radio and music business under their belts and are led by John Ross-Barnard, whose radio career began at sea in the 1970s and includes many years with the BBC, on air as well as in management. He was most recently responsible for putting up SWS, the satellite delivery network, and has recently been supervising launch of new media initiatives in the former Yugoslavia for the European Union. The company's founder is Paul Rusing, who has been involved in licensing, development and engineering at many major and minor radio companies, but who started his career as a DJ on Radio Caroline in the early 1970s. "It has been a long battle," said Paul, who is the company's Chief Executive, who has spent much of the last four years commuting between several European cities, lobbying at Westminster, the EU in Geneva and countries such as Tunisia and Belarus, all of whom had objected to the Isle of Man broadcasting. "There was tremendous opposition to the Isle of Man having its own international voice, but we were certain that the obstacles put up previously in the UK were no longer valid and that it would only be a matter of time before we were them down," he said when the frequency finally came through earlier this year. "It cost a fortune in legal bills, but an important point of principle was at stake as well as the existing proposal of the Island finally having its own powerful voice." lMBC was formed in 1994 to lobby the UK Government to drop its objections to a station on the Islands. As long ago as 1989, the then Man Government had been asking for permission to license such a station and there have been many high powered delegations to London over the years. To get a stronger frequency for Mark Radio London always refused, and have cited a variety of reasons. "The most ludicrous reason put forward was that such a station would steal listeners from the LR stations in the UK, an excuse totally out of line to hit Atlantic when that station launched," said Paul this week. In recent years the Radio Authority, which looks after commercial stations such as Virgin and Talkradio, stated one frequency that lMBC had proposed, 226 LIV, although it has not brought into use, despite there being

firm interest from over a dozen UK radio groups. The team also includes Rick Wakeman who is currently hosting a programme on BBC Radio 2 as well as several TV programmes. He is joined by Dave Cousins, leader of The Stewarts and who has since managed several stations and been involved in radio licensing development for CLT. Dave will be the station's Head of Music. They propose playing both contemporary and classic music, but not restricted to Top 40 hits. Several of lMBC's team are still working in radio elsewhere and their identities will be kept confidential until notice periods are worked out.

INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

lMBC believe their 2/3 Long wave signal will reach as far as Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, but plan to boost reception still further by broadcasting on satellite and shortwave to other parts of the world. "We plan to use a network of former BBC World Service transmitters which will send the stations signal into Australia and North America, as well as some PM stations in other places such as the Côte d'Ivoire," Rusing explained. "It's very important that the station be seriously international and not just a station broadcasting to the UK, as the Broadcasting Act 1993 doesn't allow the Island to license such a station." "I think it's very interesting to note that many of the big developments and changes in British radio have come about as a result of activity from outside the UK," said Rusing. "Lucky Luxembourg brought sweeping changes to the BBC over its half a century of serving music starved British audiences, then the offshore stations had their own effect, propelling Radio One and commercial radio. In the 1980s, Laser gave radio another shake up, helping force out headline restrictions and the 50-50 speech ratios from music stations, not to mention our jinking wavelength in favour of frequencies." lMBC, PO Box 278, Ramsey, Isle of Man, GY1 4HT, UK. Email: <lmibc@isobroadcast.net> (Ed. note: Hans Knut Reuvewa & Paul Rusing)

The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company

The site is seen as a way of making information about the company and its plans for the future available to both Isle of Man residents and potential listeners overseas. Content on the site includes a listing with biographical details of company executives, as well as some details of proposed coverage and programming plans. The proposed station is also running its list competition via the web - offering the chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the Island in return for filling in a simple survey form.

lMBC Chief Executive Paul Rusing comments: "The licensing of a new longwave station from the Isle of Man is of interest to many people, both on the Island and elsewhere in Europe. We're delighted that by using the power of the internet, we can provide information about our path to this process to the widest possible audience."

"We will be updating the site frequently throughout the next few months so that the latest developments are always covered," Rusing added. You will find the lMBC website at <<http://www.lmibcradio.com>>.

CLT APPLY FOR ISLE OF MAN LONGWAVE LICENCE (UK)

CLT-UFA have applied for the Isle of Man high-power longwave licence, proposing a station which will be called Indigo 279. The Indigo application is backed by a consortium including CLT owners of Atlantic 226, CEA Broadcast Investments and Comuncorp. Indigo say that they will not only broadcast "an attractive broad based programming format of Classic Hits (music from the last four decades and today) coupled with news and lively information, but will also benefit local Man businesses and residents. The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company has also lodged an application, as have others - a full report will be given here in a couple of days, once the lMBC authorities release the details.

The latest on Radixx

Commission decides to give go/no go permission

On Sept. 9th the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg examined the questionable admissibility of Trevor Brock's application for licensing his SW project Radixx. Many years ago Radixx was pulling out legal broadcasts from Ireland. After Radixx was forced to close down by the Irish authorities, Trevor Brock applied for an official SW licence in the UK but the authorities consistently refused to allow him to continue Radixx one legal basis. Trevor Brock decided not to give up and took the matter up with the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg. They now have decided that notice should be given to the Government of the UK, and their observations invited in regard to a possible violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. In the case Trevor Brock asserts that by refusing to license an independent short wave radio station the government unreasonably and persistently stalled media development, to the detriment of the public and in breach of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Trevor made his first application for a licence 12 years ago, August 1985. Since 1987, Trevor Brock has been running a company, Surrey Electronics Ltd, which specialises in research and design of products for the broadcast industry. Trevor Brock comments: "This is more encouraging news from Strasbourg. If any other people have documents on the subject I would be most pleased to hear from them and add to the evidence." Early December we received another update. Sept. 9th the court invited the UK government to submit its views about a possible violation of human rights. They responded to the request by asking the court for an extension to the usual time limit fixed down for the process. This extension has subsequently been granted by the President of the Third Chamber. Trevor comments that "A request for extra time is



often read as an indication that the other side is having some difficulty justifying their position". You can contact Trevor by telephone: 1483-275-667 or via Email: <se2@btconnect.co.uk>. Snailmail address is: Surrey Electronics Ltd, The Forge, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7RG in England.

MADE IN HOLLAND

SEPTEMBER

Early September the Dutch Government assigned 33 FM and 7 AM frequencies to 18 regional commercial radio stations. Eighty stations had applied for these frequencies. It is expected the lucky winners will start using their frequencies towards the end of the year. Stations like Rebecca Radio (Northern and eastern part of the country), Sun FM and City FM (Western part) and 8FM (Southern region) gained most frequencies. One of the stations getting an AM frequency is Quality Radio. This organisation wants to bring a station on the air called Radio Caroline. They will be broadcasting in the very Northern part of the country on a frequency of 1602 kHz. Power will be 1.5 kW. One of the initiates of the station is Bob Noakes, who has been working for the real Caroline back in the seventies. The station will be working with young talents. Not big names from the past will be joining. A UK enterprise is booking the station financially. The name of this company hasn't been revealed yet. The assignments are temporarily until September 1st 2000. Then the entire frequency spectrum will be reshuffled. Radio 538 suffers from departure of deejays. Most popular dj's Ruud de Wild and very experienced Michael Piercy are leaving the station. Ruud will join the new public broadcaster BNN, while Michael will get a job at a commercial media enterprise. More and more the station is losing the people who helped it to become its first, difficult years. Public broadcasters are using the Internet to spread their programmes more and more. VPRO Radio shows us how pop radio can be made, while NCRV creates Buzz radio to promote its programmes made for national pop station Radio 3. Talking about public radio station Radio 3: 45% of the audience thinks radio 3 is a commercial radio station, while news station Radio 1 is recognized as a public broadcaster by 84%. Music means commercial, taking is equal to public broadcasting...

Talk Radio 1395 AM has been transferred into Business News 1395 AM. By half September. Reason for this move has been the very bad financial position of the station. Some fifteen people lost their jobs. Only some 200.000 people listened to TR every week. Advertisers considered the audience too small to buy commercials on the station. Emphasis on financial news has to catch another broad audience.

OCTOBER

On October 14th, a stormy and rainy day, the MV Communicator, former vessel of the eighties station Laser 1050 Laser Hot Hits, moved to a new anchorage. The ship was taken by two tow-vessels the MV Maenel and MV Spiezberg from its current anchorage. Since 1985 the Communicator was anchored at the dyke just south of Enkhuizen. Some 80 people were invited to take part. During the journey, QFM was broadcasting live from the Communicator, the studio aboard was used for the first time since 1987! Since QFM's broadcasts were to be heard in AM 1220 10.00 AM over from Veronica the ship was rented. Unico Glate, Veronicas managing-director who was one of the invited people, admitted that Veronica had seriously considered the idea of starting a testing centre for people willing to start working for a radio station. But in the end this plan had to be cancelled because it needed an enormous investment to fully prepare the ship for this job. Late in the afternoon the Communicator reached its new destination in the Almere Pampus harbour. Moving the ship was a tough job which took quite some time. Nearly 4 years ago Veronica paid 10 million guilders, QFM, the new owner only paid a nominal amount. Unico Glate emphasized that the transfer of the Communicator meant an end of the Veronica ship era. The new moving coincides with a new ownership. For the test year it was rented by QFM from Veronica and it is now sold to QFM. Unico Glate, director of Veronica, officially handed the ship over to QFM's director Peter Jansen. Quality Radio is broadcasting on 1294 AM using a state-of-the-art digital Harris DPSO transmitter. The tx is leased from the Dutch Noemra.

NOVEMBER

This month we start in Belgium. Rumours are circulating the Coesendijk brewery is intending to start a cable station. Really the name SuperGold was mentioned, while later

Radio Mi Amigo would become the station's name. However, this name appeared to be registered. The new name has become Radio Magdalena, referring to the last station the real Radio Mi Amigo used back in the Summer of 1979. Only for some weeks, until the vessel ran aground. Apart from the name, the new station and its initiators don't have any connection with the former offshore station. A station that certainly did have ties with the former Radio Mi Amigo has been Radio Meesa. This broadcasted pop, using high powered transmitters gained a lot of success in the early Eighties. The station covered most of the Belgian territory and even could be received in the Southern part of Holland. Key figure behind the scenes was Patrick Vanlin (Patrick Van Acoelen), who has been one of the major people in the Mi Amigo management. The new Meesa will be called Veenet and will also be broadcasting via cable. There are many details available, but it seems some well-known personalities will join the station. The Dutch commercial stations are doing very well. Their common market share is 44.0% compared with 33.3% for the public stations. All this despite the fact the commercial stations still have minor means (read: less transmitters and frequencies). However, gradually they are expanding their coverage. Radio 538, 10 Gold and Veronica already got more or more powerful transmitters. And now Radio Noordzee National is on the move. They moved their 50 kW 102.5 FM transmitter to a more eastern part of the country, to enlarge the covered area, while the transmitter in Groningen has been pulled in power. Above all there are plans to establish two additional transmitters in other parts of the country. Tuesday November 17th a public hearing has been held to pay attention to some 30 objections against the assignment of frequencies to commercial regional stations. Very soon after this meeting stations like HTR, radio Rebecca and 8FM stated their transmission on FM. In case you want to read and HTR more about Dutch radio, then you should visit <http://dutchradiofreqs.htm>. NEW DUTCH COMMUNICATIONS LAW??

Friday Oct. 2nd the editorial staff of Mediasite, a new weekly 'E-mail' service via the Internet, brings an interesting story about the future for commercial offshore radio stations. Until a few weeks ago it was simply inconceivable believing the Dutch government would assign every possible frequency being available to commercial radio stations. Nonetheless this same government is energetically giving orders for technical research mapping every possible frequency not being used. Imagine our surprise knowing that a new telecommunications law is being prepared perhaps coming into force before the end of this year. In the mean time different Dutch governmental services are strongly arguing about these plans. Facts is that some of them are seriously taking exception to the new law. The so-called Rijksdienst voor de Radiocommunicatie—the body monitoring & controlling the airwaves—is not happy at all with these proposals. It remains forbidden for Dutch citizens to give assistance to broadcasts from ships outside territorial waters. Dutch companies risk heavy penalties when advertising on such stations, the same applies to supplying radio vessels. But the new law legalizes the possession of transmitting equipment. That's a very significant change because in such case a Dutch port can be used for equipping radio ships. Imagine you have a legal cable or Internet station enabling you to sell commercial airtime. You make a contract but a foreign company, in a country not having any anti-offshore law. You agree that the foreign company will be investigating the possibilities of getting your signal into the Netherlands. Mind your closely you haven't ordered to moor a ship on the high seas. Then the legal cable or Internet signal will be stayed from a ship in international waters. Advertisers can legally advertise on the satellite, cable or Internet stations available via the ship as well. Of course the advertiser don't give any orders to do that keeping out of range. Then the supplying of the ship forbidden for Dutch citizens but not for foreigners. You can even switch be off outside the territorial waters and sail to the nearest by port where the ship can be supplied with food, spare parts etc. As long as no Dutchman are aboard, the Dutch authorities cannot undertake any legal action. So far so good. The Telecommunications law just described is only a proposal. The Dutch Lower House must take the final decision whether it will be accepted or not. The Rijksdienst voor de Radiocommunicatie sees every opportunity brighten its bill. One of their proposals is that you only may possess transmitting equipment when having a certificate proving you are allowed to keep it in your house. In case the ROR wins the battle all will remain the same, nothing will change. We will await further developments and keep you in the picture.

Now from FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS three high quality Radio Caroline cassettes featuring the station's live output from Sunday Nov. 18th 1998 when the first Int. Caroline programming from the Ross Revenge went out on satellite. Listen to great ps from Johnny Lewis, Steve Conway, Nigel Harris and others. 270 minutes on three C-80s for DM 29.90/£ 9.95 /\$ 29.90.

THE FRS NEWSLETTER/ FRS-HOLLAND WISHES ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY X-MAS & A GREAT 1999. WE HOPE 1999 WILL BECOME YOUR BEST YEAR OF THIS DECADE.